

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 6

NEWSWEEK
19 March 1979

Letters

The CIA's Woes

I feel that your article "Is the CIA Hobbled?" (NATIONAL AFFAIRS, March 5) should have stressed even more that "intelligence failures" in Iran and Afghanistan arose out of Presidential policy failures and should not be pushed off on the CIA and other intelligence sources.

I also feel you were unduly antagonistic toward the CIA and its director, Adm. Stansfield Turner. I don't know anyone else who would have been able to move into that position when he did, after the agency had been kicked around by members of Congress, committees of Congress, the media and malcontents of our society.

I think we should seriously reconsider trying to write a charter to cover all the "do's" and "don'ts" on a subject that is understood by only a handful of people. With just a little more badgering of our intelligence agencies, we are going to be operating in a pool of ignorance in an increasingly perilous world, and the media can take a just share of the blame.

BARRY GOLDWATER
Vice Chairman

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■ I see it all now—the disgraced CIA, running scared, neglects to inform us of the situation in Iran and Afghanistan. We are caught by surprise and lose a major oil supplier. There is then a clamor for the strengthening of the CIA. The whole scheme was really quite crude.

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